

The Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill insures stability and progress

For Immediate Release

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July 19, 2007

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(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Albio Sires voted today to ensure that funding to vital areas of American's daily lives continues to flow. H.R. 3043, the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations bill makes college more affordable, expands access to health care for the uninsured, and invests in American workers. This bill provides \$151.7 billion in discretionary spending in 2008, a modest increase over last year.

"Investing in these areas assists millions of families that try very hard to get ahead but need a little help," said Congressman Sires "This is why we serve, to make sure families get the tools they need to access job training, higher education and healthcare."

These examples highlight some areas FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations provides vital funding for: Pell Grants - increases the maximum award by \$390, making the maximum amount \$4,700. Job Training and Worker Protection - safeguards and increases funding by 1.9% for employment, training and worker protection programs. Healthcare - expands healthcare to more than 2 million Americans enabling health centers to serve an additional 1 million uninsured patients, provides funding for new state health access grants, and support to patients who are deemed medically high-risk so they can afford insurance.

In the 13th Congressional district of New Jersey, H.R. 3043 provides \$300,000 to the Bayonne Medical Center, for the institution of an electronic medical records system. It also assigns \$100,000 to the Latino Institute for their Latino Scholars Program, which provides mentoring, advice, and financial support for outstanding Latino college students in Newark.

"This bill protects low-income residents by ensuring more are able to pay their electric bills, shortens processing times for Social Security disability claims and enables states to expand services that will improve the chances of Americans to live the productive, prosperous lives for which we all strive," said Congressman Sires.

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